Corruption in Passport Office

7982. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to the Starred Question 422 and Unstarred Question 7130 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August 1994 arid I4th December, 1999 repectively and state:

(a) what is the correct position re garding investigation into the case of alleged cheating and fraud in the issue of passport against Shri Balbir Singh Gupta, earlier mentioned as Shri Balbir Singh Mann and what further action has been taken in the matter; and

(b) what are' the details of com plaints received in 1993, 1994 and so far in 1995 by Government re garding corruption in the issue of passports in each of the Passport Offices in North India and how many of them have been referred to the CBI and what action has been taken on each of these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Shri Balbir Singh Gupta, Superintendent in the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh is under investigation by CBI whose report is still awaited. Further action in this matter will be taken on the basis of rcommendations made by CBI. There was, and is, no employee in the Central Passport Organisation by the name of Balbir Singh Mann.

(b) A statement containing details of complaints received during the years, 1992-93, 1993-94 and till April 1995 regarding corruption in the issue of passports in the Passport Offices in North India which contains also details of cases under investigation by CBI and action taken so far on these complaints, is annexed.

Statement

Details of complaints made against officials of the passport offices in North India against whom disciplinary proceedings are either contemplated or are in progress or who are under investigation by CBI

S.No.	Name of the official	Status of the case
1993		
1	Shr. Ram Swarup Bhatt, Peon, RPO, Chandigarh	CBI has registered a complaint against him in connection with chrages of theft of passports. Sh. Bhatt was placed under suspension and his suspension has been revoked. CBI is investigating this case further. SP, CBI's reply is awaited.
2	Sh. Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, Night Watchman, RPO, Chandigarh	He is a coaccused with Sh.R.S. Bhatt, Peon in connection with theft of passports. He was placed under suspension and suspension has been revoked. CBI, Chandigarh is investigating this case. SP, CBI's report is awaited.
1994		
3	Sh. S.C. Behra, LDC PO, Bubaneshwar	CBI has registered a case against him for taking a bribe of Rs. 1000/- for issue of a passport to an applicant. CBI has completed the enquiry and has filed the chargesheet in the Court. Ministry has issued sanction for prosec ition against him. He is under suspension.

S.No.	Name of the official	Status of the case
4	Sh. S.C. Behra, LDC & Sh. B.S. Mazumdar, Supdt. PO, Bhubaneshwar	CBI has registered a case against these officials for issuing passports to unauthorised persons for consideration of Rs. 2000/-. CBI has completed inquiry in this case and has filed a chargesheet in a court at Bhubaneshwar. They are under suspension.
5	Sh. N. Guru, Ag.RPO & Sh. B.S. Gupta, Supdt. RPO, Chandigarh	CBI has registered a case against these officials for irregularities committed by them in issue of passports and possession of disproportionate assets to their known source of income. Passports were issued on the basis of false documents and on priority basis. Sh. B.S. Gupta, Supdt. is under suspension.
6	Sh.N.Guru, Ag. RPO, Sh. B.S. Gupta, Supdt. & Sh. A.L. Verma, PRO RPO,Chandigarh	CBI has registered a case against these officials for issuing passports on priority and other basis of false documents. CBI is investigating this. CBI's report is awaited.
7	Sh. B.S. Gupta, Supdt. Miss Santosh, Asstt. Miss Usha Kaul, Asstt. Miss Neelam Kapoor, Asstt. Sh. Deepankar, LDC & Sh. Yashpal, UDC RPO,Chandigarh.	CBI has registered a case against these employees for priority issue of passports and also on the basis of false documents. CBI is investigating this case. Result of investigation is not known to us so far.
8	Sh. Rohtash Singh, Asstt. RPO, Chandigarh	CBI has registered a case against him and investigating this case. He is under suspension.
9	Sh. Pawan Kumar, LDC PO, Jalandhar	Local Police, Jalandhar has investigated a case against him for demanding Rs. 10,000/- from an applicant for issue of a passport. A departmental proceeding for major penalty has been initiated against him, by issuing a Memorandum.
10	Sh. Suman Kumar Sharma, UDC, PO, Lucknow	CBI has lodged FIR against him for possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs. 10,30,000/- to his known source of income. CBI is investigating this case. Result of investigation is not known so far.
11	Smt. Madhu Chopra, UDC PO, Lucknow	CBI has registered a complaint against her for demanding a sum of Rs. 200/- for issue of a passport to an applicant. Smt. Madhu Chopra is under suspension. CBI is investigating this case. Result of investigation is yet to be known to us.
12	Sh. R.R. Malhotra, Supdt. RPO, Delhi	CBI has registered a case against him for issue of passport on false particulars. CBI is investigating this case. Result of investigation is awaited.
13	Sh. R.C. Tyagi, Casual worker, RPO, Delhi	CBI had received a complaint against him for demanding illegal gratification for issue of a passport. He has been sacked from Govt. service. CBI is investigating this case. Result of investigation is awaited.
1995		
14	Sh. S.C. Behra, LDC & Sh. B. Prasad, Supdt. PO, Bhubaneshwar	CBI has investigated against these officials in a case of issuing passports to unauthorised persons. CBI has recommended regular departmental action against them.

S.No.	Name of the officials	Status of the case
15	Sh. H.R. Khattumaria,PRO,RPO, Chandigarh	Departmental proceeding for major penalty has been initiated against him for committing irregularities of serious nature in issue of passports.
16	Sh. Gopal Ganesh, LDC, PO, Bhopal	Departmental proceeding for major penalty has been initiated against him for committing irregularities by keeping 4 adverse police verification reports with him for 21 days.
17	Sh. Lal Singh, Supdt. & Sh. Suman Sehgal, LDC, RPO, Delhi	CBI has lodged a complaint against these officials for committing irregularities in issue of passports. CBI is investigating this case. Report of investigation is awaited.

FPIs in Assam

7983, SHRI BHADRESWAR GO-HAIN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING .' INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of appli cations received by Government from Assam and other North Eastern States for opening up of Food Processing Indus tries in that region;

(b) what is the total number of such applications cleared by the Ministry 'so far and the number of those still pending with the Ministry; and

(c) what arethe potentials of Food •Processing Industries in this region and the details of incentives given by Gov ernment to encourage local entrepre neurs, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) During the post liberalisa-tion period, 5 Industrial Entreprenuer Memoranda have been received from the ■North-Eastern States for setting up of food processing industries. One proposal for setting up of 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit has been appreved. 14 proposals have been received from North Eastern Region for setting up of various kinds of food processing industries in 94-95 Financial assistance has been approved in case of 8 proposals. Action for others have been initiated.

(c) North Eastern State has good potential for agro processing industries such as fruit & vegetable processing meat & Poultry processing, spices based products, medicinal aromatic plants, tea, Cashewnuts etc. Government has given various incentives for setting up food processing industries which inter-alia include declaration of food processing in-dustries as high priority sector, delicensing of most food processing industries except distillation find brewing of alcoholic beverages and those reserved for small scale, sector, reduction of Excise and Customs duty on various food products, 50 per cent Domestic Tariff Area sale allowed for 100 per cent Export Orienled Units etc.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance under its Plan Development Schemes being implemented during the 8th Plan period to promote food processing sector. Such assistance is provided to State Government Organi-sations/Cooperatives Voluntary agencies etc.

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में निवेश की संभावना

7984. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :

श्री आस मोहम्मद :

क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खाद्य प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र में निवेश की राज्य-वार